

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

EB-11 USIE-00 DRC-01 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0308

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0165

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS JULY

15, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE JULY 15 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE NETHERLANDS REP, UK REP AND US REP AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK AND GDR REP OESER.

2. UK REP AS FIRST SPEAKER EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE ALLIES ATTACHED TO THEIR ALL-PARTICIPANTS PROPOSAL. SPEAKING FROM PREPARED NOTES, POLISH REP PRESENTED NEGATIVE CRITIQUE OF WESTERN ALL-PARTICIPANTS PROPOSAL. THEY ARGUED THAT: (A) THIS STEP DID NOT CHANGE BASIC WESTERN POSITION AND WEST
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WAS STILL INSISTING THAT ONLY USSR AND US SHOULD REDUCE

AT OUTSET; (B) COMMITMENT BY REMAINING WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE WAS ALREADY IMPLICIT IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND DID NOT REPRESENT ADVANCE. THIS STEP WAS INSEPARABLY LINKED WITH THE BASIC WESTERN CONCEPT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE EAST; (C) THE COMMITMENT CONCERNED ONLY GROUND FORCE MANPOWER; (D) THE COMMITMENT WAS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR A CLEAR COMMITMENT BY EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT AS TO THE NUMBER OF REDUCTIONS IT WOULD TAKE AND THE TIME WHEN THEY WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED; (E) MOREOVER, THE COMMITMENT WAS LOADED WITH UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS.

3. GDR REP OESER AGAIN ATTACKED NETHERLANDS REP'S SUMMARY OF EASTERN POSITION IN JULY 10 INFORMAL SESSION AS INACCURATE. OESER AGAIN URGED FIRST STEP AGREEMENT. HE ONCE MORE CLAIMED WEST HAD AGREED IN JUNE 18 SESSION TO DISCUSS THIS IDEA. US REP PRESENTED AGREED TALKING POINTS ON THE ISSUE OF POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE WESTERN DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES.

4. KHLESTOV PRESENTED OVERALL REVIEW OF SPRING SESSION OF TALKS, CLAIMING THEY HAD PRODUCED NO PROGRESS OWING TO LACK OF REALISM OF WESTERN POSITION. ON GROUND FORCE DEFINITION, KHLESTOV SAID INDICATION OF ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ADJUSTING GROUND FORCE DEFINITION WAS LOGICAL FROM VIEWPOINT OF ALLIED POSITION AND INTERESTS, BUT THAT EASTERN VIEW CONTINUED THAT ALL FORCES SHOULD IN ANY EVENT BE INCLUDED. FOLLOWING THE SESSION, KHLESTOV TOLD US DEPREP THAT EAST'S MAIN OBJECTION TO NETHERLANDS REP'S SUMMARY OF EASTERN POINTS WAS THAT IT GAVE INFORMAL IDEAS ADDITIONAL STATUS, THUS REQUIRING THEM TO BE REPORTED TO CAPITALS. HE SAID IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE IDEAS THEMSELVES WERE STILL IN PLAY. END SUMMARY.

REMAINDER OF REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTEL.RESOR

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